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## **David Davis: A Defender of the Constitution**

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Each person has a defining moment, the one time in life which stands out beyond all the rest. For someone who has spent a great deal of time in public service, there may be many of these moments. David Davis was one of those people, serving as a Circuit Court judge, a Supreme Court justice, and a United States Senator, he had many opportunities to display his brilliance. However, during his time on the United States Supreme Court, a landmark case was tried—*Ex parte Milligan*. His association with this case—one of the first that decided the Constitutional protection of civil liberties—has brought him greatness, for he delivered the opinion of the court.

Davis' influence in Illinois began in 1844, when he was elected to the Illinois legislature. Though he had been born in Maryland, Davis earned a law degree from Yale and settled in Bloomington, Illinois with his young wife. There, he established a law practice in 1836, having been admitted to the Illinois bar the previous year. When Davis became a circuit court judge in 1848, he began a lifelong friendship with Abraham Lincoln, with whom he rode the circuit routes. At the Republican convention of 1860, Davis worked tirelessly for Lincoln's nomination. His effort secured Lincoln's election. When Lincoln moved to Washington, D. C., Davis followed and served as an advisor until 1862, at which time Lincoln appointed him to the Supreme Court. It was from this appointment that his shining moment resulted.

The case of *Ex parte Milligan* was concerned with the death sentence of Lambden P. Milligan. During the Civil War, Milligan had been tried by a military court in Indiana

for allegedly disloyal activities. He was found guilty and sentenced to death. However, Lincoln granted a stay of execution to Milligan. Following Lincoln's assassination, though, Andrew Johnson permitted the sentence to be carried out. At this point, Milligan's attorney requested his release, but the appeal was delayed by the question of whether civilian courts had jurisdiction over appeals from military courts. When the case passed beyond the federal circuit court, the Supreme Court was given a chance to comment on the extent of the government's powers during war. They decided, though the decision became only a precedent, that military courts could not supersede civil courts in areas where civil courts and the government remained fully open and operational. In this instance, Indiana's courts and government had functioned throughout the war; therefore, the military courts held no authority over the citizens of Indiana.

When Davis delivered the Supreme Court's opinion, he angered many within the Republican party. Davis argued that since Milligan was not a prisoner of war, a resident of a rebellious state, or a member of the military or naval service, the military tribunal never had the authority to punish him. Laws had been made to outline the exact situations under which tribunals could have power, and because those situations did not exist, the tribunal should not have existed either. Moreover, the Constitution provided a trial by jury for all crimes except impeachment. While the Constitution provided for the use of military courts under circumstances of war, the Civil War never truly existed within Indiana's borders. Additionally, Davis defended Lincoln's suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. It was found that some events relative to national security might warrant that suspension; however, after a citizen was denied habeas corpus, there was no provision for him to be tried other than by the normal courts of law, a civil court. Obviously,

the military court had never held authority within the state of Indiana, much less over one of its citizens.

Though the trial of *Ex parte Milligan*, David Davis upheld the Constitutional provisions that protect American citizens and set a precedence to the future. As a citizen of Illinois, he brought greatness to a young state and to himself, securing American democracy. Davis truly was one of Illinois' stars. [From U. S. Department of State, "Basic Reading in U.S. Democracy: Ex parte Milligan (1866)", [www.usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/26.htm](http://www.usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/26.htm) (Nov. 13, 2004).]

## **Ulysses S. Grant, an American General**

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Although Ulysses S. Grant was not seen as a successful president, he has gone down as one of the most memorable generals in United States history. He had many faces. Grant was the son of a tanner, a scrawny young boy. He was the eighteenth President of the United States. Most importantly he was a successful military leader, and patriotic American.

Hiram Ulysses Grant was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio on April 27, 1822, to parents Jesse Root, and Hannah Simpson Grant. A year later the family moved to Georgetown, Ohio, to live what Grant would describe as an “uneventful life.” He was not studiously inclined, but did well enough in school to get by. Grant was considered a small scrawny boy, but he had an inexplicable connection with horses. He could handle even the most difficult horse with ease. Ulysses hated the killing of animals, the horror of game hunting, and especially hated the tannery which his father ran.

When it came time for Ulysses to attend a higher education facility the cost of college was staggering to his thrifty father. Jesse soon found a way to pay for education for his son. Ulysses would enroll in the United States Military Academy at West Point. Grant was ill prepared for a military life, and had never planned to pursue a military career. At home he had never needed to fold his clothes or make his own bed. Grant was quoted as saying, “A military life had no charm for me.”

After graduation from the academy, Grant was sent to Jefferson Barracks, in St. Louis. There he met Julia Dent and married her in 1848. The first time Grant was sent into battle was in the Mexican War. Grant thought the war to be “wicked.” He once said, “I do not think there was ever a more wicked war than that waged by the United States on Mexico . . . . It was on our part most unjust”. Although he did not agree with the war, he fought because he believed that his “supreme duty was to my flag.” Among things he learned in the Mexican War, perhaps the most important and long lasting knowledge he gained was of the different command personalities and the individual qualities of officers.

By the time the Civil War broke out Grant and his family were living in Galena, Illinois. Ulysses was appointed to command an “unruly” volunteer regiment. By September, 1861 Grant had gotten his regiment to shape up and had risen to the rank of brigadier general of volunteers. His strategy was to win control of the Mississippi Valley. In February, 1862 he took Fort Henry and had attacked Fort Donelson. When a Confederate general asked for terms, Grant replied, “No terms except on unconditional and immediate surrender can be expected.”

The Battle of Shiloh was one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War and did not come out well for Grant and his army. People were demanding that he be removed. President Lincoln responded by saying, “I can’t spare the man—he fights.” After the embarrassment of Shiloh, Grant successfully maneuvered and skillfully fought to gain Vicksburg. In winning Vicksburg, the key to the Mississippi, General Grant split the Confederacy in half.

General Grant negotiated the end of the Civil war in the Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. As Grant left that legendary courthouse the federal soldiers roared with cheers of exultation. The general silenced them say, “The war is over. The Rebels are our countrymen again.”

General Ulysses S. Grant was not known to have been an outstanding president. He was described in his youth as an “unpromising boy.” Even though Grant had never intended to live a military life, he was one of the most memorable generals in United States history. His impact on the outcome of the war was great and his impact on the history of America was perhaps greater. Grant at one point described his life as “uneventful,” but it is clear that his life was indeed full of adventure. [ From F. Norton Boothe, *Great American Generals, Ulysses S. Grant*; General Sir James Marshall Cornwall, *Grant as Military Commander* ; “Ulysses S. Grant”, Biography. [www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/us18.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/history/presidents/us18.html) (Sept. 28, 2004).]



## **Grant's Prowess at the Battle of Shiloh**

Dustin Damiani

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What is so important about the Battle of Shiloh? The Battle of Shiloh is important for one reason and one reason only: trade! The Union battle plan, the Anaconda Plan, as a strategy to cut off the Confederate trade and supply routes. They gave it the name Anaconda because like the Anaconda snake, which kills its victim by constricting the victim to death, the Union army aimed to cut off Confederate trade routes and therefore the supply lines. If the South lost its rail and water supply lines, the war could be significantly shortened. The South's "Cotton Kingdom" used rail and water transportation while the road systems of the South were not designed to handle a large amount of trade. If the Union Army could cut the Southern trade and supply lines, the time it would take for a Union victory would be reduced.

The Battle of Shiloh was also important to the history of Illinois in that it gave President Lincoln a second term in office. It would also produce a Galena, Illinois native, Ulysses S. Grant, who would gain fame as a general at Shiloh and eventually become President of the United States.

The first military strategy offered to President Abraham Lincoln for crushing the rebellion of Southern states was devised by Union General-in-Chief Winfield Scott. From April 1 through early May 1861 Scott briefed the president daily, often in person, on the national military situation; the results of these briefings were used by Scott to work out Union military aims.

About May 3 Scott told his protégé, Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan that he believed an effective "blockade" of Southern ports, a strong thrust down the Mississippi Valley with a large force, and the establishment of a line of strong Federal positions There would isolate the disorganized Confederate Nation "and bring it to terms." Scott then presented it to the president, in greater detail, proposing that 60,000 troops move down the Mississippi with gunboats until they had secured the river from Cairo, Illinois, to the Gulf, which, in concert with an effective blockade, would seal off the South. Then,

he believed, Federal troops should stop, waiting for Southern Union sympathizers to turn on their Confederate governors and compel them to surrender. It was Scott's belief that sympathy for secession was not as strong as it appeared and that isolation and pressure would make the "fire-eaters" back down and allow calmer heads to take control.

But the war-fevered nation wanted combat, not armed diplomacy, and the passive features of Scott's plan were ridiculed as a proposal "to squeeze the South to military death." The press, recalling McClellan's alleged "boa-constrictor" remark, named the plan after a different constricting snake, the anaconda.

Meanwhile, Ulysses S. Grant was given command of a regiment of Illinois soldiers charged with creating havoc along the Mississippi River. His troops had taken Fort Henry and Fort Donelson already in Tennessee since taking command at Cairo, Illinois, and moved across to Paducah, Kentucky. General Ulysses S. Grant was not present on the field on the morning of April 6, 1862, when his Army of the Tennessee was surprised by Confederate forces commanded by Albert Sidney Johnston, but arrived as the battle was in full swing. Federal forces fought back stubbornly as they recovered from their initial surprise, and Johnston was killed in the fighting. The Confederates generally had the best of the action as the first day drew to a close.

Elements of Don Carlos Buell's Federal Army of the Ohio arrived late in the day and through the night. When fighting resumed the next day, the Union forces managed to turn the tide of the battle, and the Confederates retreated from the field. Grant was blamed for the poor state of readiness of his troops, and for the extremely high casualty rate. Shiloh was the fiercest battle fought during the war up to that time, and it shocked the nation. Here are some excerpts of Grant's brief report of the battle and his congratulatory order to his troops:

- My force was too much fatigued from two days' hard fighting and exposure in the open air to a drenching rain during the intervening night to pursue immediately.
- Night closed in cloudy and with heavy rain, making the roads impracticable

for artillery by the next morning. General Sherman, however, followed the enemy, finding that the main part of the army had retreated in good order.

- I feel it a duty, however, to a gallant and able officer, Brig. Gen. W. T. Sherman, to make a special mention. He not only was with his command during the entire two days' action, but displayed great judgment and skill in the management of his men. Although severely wounded in the hand the first day his place was never vacant. He was again wounded, and had three horses killed under him.

These journals give a unique perspective into the mindset of what happened during and after the battle.

The first shot was fired by a group of Confederate snipers firing at General William Tecumseh Sherman. He survived a buck shot wound to his hand. After this moment, two days of violence erupted. The word Shiloh means "place of peace." It would be anything but peaceful during the next days. The Union army was taken completely by surprise. Many fled to the Tennessee River, which was not a good choice. Many soldiers died while running from the Confederates. Running in straight line while shoots at you from behind makes you easy prey, especially if they have cannons. Once the attack started, there was mass confusion on both sides. Most of the boys had never been in the line of battle before and did not know their orders. It was a murderous fistfight. During the battle. General Johnston of the Confederacy was killed. If he had not been killed, he may have had his men march straight to the Tennessee River to finish off what was left of the Union army. But P.T. Beauregard, who replaced Johnston, made a decision to rest his troops for the night. This was another mistake because Union General Ulysses S. Grant had his men ambush this position the next morning. As with the first Battle of Bull Run, the South lost another chance to swing the war in its favor.

The aftermath of the Battle of Shiloh made people realize that the war was far from over. It also made people realize that the Civil War would be very costly in men and material. The Union army had captured Corinth and taken control of the Mississippi River north of that point. Shiloh was a decisive battle in the war. The South needed to

save the Mississippi Valley. Memphis and Vicksburg were now vulnerable to Union attack. After Corinth, there is no doubt those cities would be the next to fall. Therefore, some of the rail and water routes were cut off for the Confederate Army. This was important because with the loss of some of the South's rail and water transportation routes, the Southern army could not get many major supplies and communications to sustain its cause and win the war. This also started to give control of southern water and rail supply lines to the Union army. The "Anaconda" was starting to "constrict" more harshly. The battle was not the end of the war, but it was most likely the beginning of the end of the Confederate cause.

The Battle of Shiloh was dramatic and brutal. The battle's end result would lead to further constriction of the Confederate trade and supply lines. The event showed the South depended heavily on rail and water transport to keep their war effort alive. Although the war would last another three years, in a sense this battle was the beginning of the end. Without the trade routes, the Southern cause was doomed. [From The Anaconda Plan <<http://www.civilwarhome.com/anacondaplan.html>> (Dec. 14, 2004); The Battle of Shiloh <<http://www.genocities.com/heartland/acres/1257/shiloh.html>> (Dec. 14, 2004); General Grant's Report of the Battle of Shiloh <<http://www.swcivilwar.com/GrantReportShiloh.html>> (Dec. 14, 2004).]

## **David Davis: United States Supreme Court Justice**

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David Davis was a very important man in politics. He was born on March 9, 1815, in Sassafras Neck, Maryland. He went to Yale Law School in 1835. He was in the Illinois House of Representatives, 1845-1847; Illinois Constitutional Convention, 1847; and an Illinois circuit court judge. In 1860, he was Abraham Lincoln's campaign manager when Lincoln ran for the presidency of the United States of America.

David Davis was appointed the associate justice of the United States Supreme Court by Abraham Lincoln, but Davis retained his appetite for partisan politics. He supported Lincoln on many issues while in the United States Supreme Court. But they also disagreed regarding the military trial of civilians and the Emancipation Proclamation. Davis urged Lincoln to withdraw the Emancipation Proclamation because Davis believed that the Emancipation Proclamation would only increase southern resistance and border state hostility toward the Union.

David Davis agreed and disagreed with many of Lincoln's issues. A very important issue when David Davis was the associate justice of the United States Supreme Court was a case entitled *Ex parte Milligan*. It decided that civilians tried by military commissions were unconstitutional. Davis, joined by the four Democrats on the bench, added that Congress could not authorize such commissions. This caused sharp dissent by Chief Justice Salmon P. Chase and the other three Republicans. It meant that a military court in Indiana created by the order of the President, illegally convicted a man for the

crime of aiding the Confederate States during the Civil War. David Davis said that Indiana had not been a war zone. Also, the civilian courts had remained open. Davis concluded that the Constitution could not be suspended in a national crisis, including a civil war.

While still on the bench, Davis was nominated for president by the Labor Reform Party. Davis sought to employ this nomination to gather support for his candidacy from the Liberal Republicans who, like Davis, were opposed to Ulysses Grant. Davis did not really enjoy his work on the Court. He found the appellate bench disagreeable for the hard study and the labor it required. There were no bright young clerks to assist the justices when Davis sat.

While still a justice, Davis in 1872 accepted the presidential nomination of the Labor Reform Party as a stepping stone to securing the nomination of the Liberal Republican Party. When the party instead nominated Hoarce Greeley, Davis withdrew as the Labor candidate. He then drifted closer to the Democrats, who expected him to cast the decisive vote for Samuel J. Tilden on the Electoral Commission of 1877. Davis tired of the Court and was elected to the Senate by Illinois legislature in 1877. As one commentator remarked of Davis' career on the Court: Davis wrote nothing but that stirring and ultimately disappointing opinion against military trials in *Ex parte Milligan*; it is surprising only that it took him so long to discover that he would really be better off in the Senate. He served one term in the Senate, the last two years as president pro tem. Upon his retirement in 1883, Davis returned to Bloomington, Illinois.

In conclusion, David Davis was an important man in politics. Davis also was a friend of Abraham Lincoln. [From Michael Conzen, *The WPA Guide to Illinois*; David Davis, *David Davis*, <<http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ihy010232.html>> (Nov. 5, 2004); David Davis, *Judge David Davis*, <<http://www.oyez.org/oyez/resource/legal-entity/2714K>> (Nov. 9, 2004); Judge David Davis, *David Davis*, <<http://www.infoplease.com/ce6/people/Ao814789.html>> (Nov. 9, 2004); Leonard W. Levy, *Encyclopedia of the American Constitution*; and John J. Patrick, *Supreme Court of the United States*.]

## **Lyman Trumbull: The Abolitionist – Lawyer to the Thirteenth Amendment**

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In the 1800s, a great man named Lyman Trumbull stood up for a cause that was nearly unheard of: black rights. With amazing tactics and great costs, Lyman Trumbull made a difference in the America of the past and the America of the future.

Trumbull saw slavery in Illinois as a prime concern. He felt that the indenture system that kept blacks as slaves was illegal. Although he was not an abolitionist, he thought that African-Americans living in Illinois should have equal rights. “Protestors believe that the institution of slavery is founded on both injustice and bad policy,” wrote one historian. This describes Lyman Trumbull’s strong feelings toward slavery. He felt that slavery should only be allowed in some states that wanted it as a right. Even with these strong emotions, for Trumbull slavery was a legal and political issue rather than moral. Also, he believed that free slaves could not be grouped with other Americans until good economic conditions had been achieved. These beliefs led Trumbull to turn his ideas into political actions.

Despite the fact that Lyman Trumbull was not an abolitionist, he accomplished great things for blacks as a lawyer. One case was *Jarrot v. Jarrot*. It involved Joseph Jarrot whose grandmother was a French African-American slave before the Northwest Ordinance in 1787. He sued Julia Jarrot for his wages and freedom. Lyman Trumbull with no pay, took the case to the Illinois Supreme Court stating that the Northwest



Ordinance applied to all blacks in the Northwest when passed. He won the case that in turn granted freedom to all French black slaves and their descendants. He advised any African-American servant that slavery was illegal in Illinois.

He took another case involving Sarah Borders and her children who ran away from their master. Sarah won the case because her time as a servant was finished. While in the Senate, Trumbull crated an amendment to a resolution that made an inquiry of an arms seizure. He thought this was necessary because during a raid in Kansas, the raiders were punished, while the Missouri raiders were praised. The Senate voted, and Trumbull's amendment fell 22 to 32.

Fortunately, Lyman Turnbull held his head high. In 1862, Trumbull favored many other new bills that opposed black slavery. He supported passing a bill ending slavery in the District of Columbia, which was amended, allowing blacks to testify in federal court. Trumbull also helped a bill which forbade the use of the Union Army to return runaway slaves to their owners. He backed another bill that made a treaty with Great Britain and suppressed slave trade.

He began to change in 1864. Trumbull felt that bills granting suffrage and civil rights went too far too quickly. To keep things balanced, Trumbull began to work with another Senator. Together they created the Freedman's Bureau to help blacks in housing and later education. Later, Trumbull voted for the first reconstruction act after the Civil War which created a new voters list that included African Americans.

Trumbull made a proposal that called for a limited confiscation of southern property, called the First Confiscation Act. After being rejected, he successfully added a change to the original bill that allowed substitution for jobs and people out of work. The day after the Battle of Bull Run, Trumbull's bill was easily passed by the Senate and the House. Lincoln signed Trumbull's bill on August 6, 1861.

The second year, Trumbull fought to further confiscation with the Second Confiscation Act. In southern states, property would be taken by the military. Slaves of the Confederates would be freed and the President could re-settle them in another area. It drew support from Radicals but other members had different ideas. That year he reported his bill to the Senate. He allowed the bill to be shunned for a few weeks before introducing it to the Senate. It differed from the original in many ways, by the lighter penalty for treason and confiscation for only certain classes of Confederates. President Lincoln vetoed it, but after much thought he signed it, allowing exclusion to expand.

On January 5, 1866, Senator Trumbull, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee at the time, introduced a civil rights bill and another bill to enlarge the powers of the Freedman's Bureau. It would allow the Freedman's Bureau "to secure freedom to all persons in the United States . . . ." The Freedman's Bureau bill and the Civil Rights bill were not a lot alike. They both gave equal rights to all people regardless of race and color. Although the two protested similar rights, the Civil Rights Act would affect areas with civil courts and the Freedman's Bureau would protect the rights of people and their

property. After much debating, both bills passed but President Johnson vetoed them.

Lyman Trumbull was very defensive about this. The bill did not shorten anyone's rights but only stated that in civil rights there should be equality for all. Each state may give or hold rights as it wants, but the only thing required is that the laws be neutral.

Trumbull's most prominent legislative achievement was his proposal of the Thirteenth Amendment. Trumbull rewrote the resolution of the Thirteenth Amendment, originally written by Senator John Henderson. It amended the United States Constitution so that slavery and servitude were illegal and gave Congress the power to enforce it. With this change, Trumbull fought for the consideration of the amendment. The Senate and the House both passed it and on January 31, 1865, it was sent to the states for ratification.

Lyman Trumbull is perhaps one of the greatest fighters for African-American rights in our history. He took his fight to the courts, Senate debates, and even the presidency. By taking part in a cause that may have been frowned upon in the past, Lyman Trumbull shaped our future. [From Lyman Trumbull "Lyman Trumbull Illinois' Extraordinary Legislator" [www.lib.niu.edu/po/ips/ihy930239.html](http://www.lib.niu.edu/po/ips/ihy930239.html) (Nov. 7, 2004); Lyman Trumbull "Lyman Trumbull led the attack on Andrew Johnson after he vetoed the Civil Rights Bill in March, 1866". [www.saf.org/journal/7\\_14.html](http://www.saf.org/journal/7_14.html) (Nov. 7, 2004); Lyman Trumbull, *Personal Security, Personal Liberty, and The Constitutional Right to Bear Arms: Visions of the Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment*. [www.guncite.com/journals/halvisn.html](http://www.guncite.com/journals/halvisn.html) (Nov. 7, 2004); Bessie Louise Pierce, *A History of Chicago*; Ralph Joseph Roske, *His Own Counsel*; Douglas Wilson, *Honor's Voice: The Transformation of Abraham Lincoln*.]

## **David Davis' Contribution to the Illinois Central Railroad**

Brandon Kemerling  
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Teachers: Mindy Juriga and Janelle Dies

Imagine life in 1835. The only mode of transportation was by horse, foot or water. Trade between towns was weak because of the time it took to get from town to town. Illinois needed something to change, and the answer was a railroad. David Davis arrived in Pekin, Illinois at this time. Davis came to start his law career, as well as his career as a judge. He had no idea that he was going to help make plans for the Illinois Central Railroad that would later help abolish slavery in the United States. During his time in Pekin, Illinois, attorney Davis helped establish the location and use of the Illinois Central Railroad which allowed Illinoisans to value this mode of transportation.

When David Davis arrived in Illinois, he immediately got involved in law. He had intended on settling in St. Louis, Missouri, for more business and a better reputation. Although Davis thought St. Louis was the gold mine of his career, a relative of his, Levi Davis, steered David away from St. Louis and into Pekin. He thought St. Louis was too competitive, and he would have an easier time and more business in Pekin.

When Davis moved to Pekin, he started his law career. He soon attracted clients and also became well known around the area. In 1834, David Davis met Jesse Fell while he was visiting Pekin. He was also a lawyer at the time and together, they established the law firm of Davis and Fell. It was very successful. When Fell retired from law, he moved to Bloomington where he purchased a printing press and started a weekly

weekly newspaper. He included ads to support Davis' law firm, and also inserted articles of Davis' past and how he ended up in Pekin. This increased Davis' popularity throughout Illinois, especially Bloomington where the newspaper originated. Davis appreciated this kind act and in return, chose Fell as his best man at his wedding.

Although David was a lawyer in Pekin, he became a judge as well in 1834. As he was a judge, citizens from Pekin started coming to him with problems about the lack of transportation throughout Illinois. Businesses were having trouble importing and exporting goods to other companies in Illinois, and someone needed to take charge. Davis realized this was a serious matter, and that he could make a difference. Davis went to Jesse Fell for a favor to help him settle this problem. Together they thought of a way to solve the problem in Illinois, and their answer was the Illinois Central Railroad. The railroad was planned to take a major part in the economy and made Illinois one of the more complex states in America.

The main idea for the Illinois Central Railroad was to enable Illinoisans to import and export goods into and out of the state, as well as to allow people to travel to other cities around Illinois. The destination for the railroad was through the center of the state and then to the Wabash River, where goods would be loaded onto barges and shipped to other parts of the country. David Davis and Jesse Fell then needed to establish locations through which the railroads would pass, which was definitely not possible. The final plans for the railroad were to start building in Pekin and continue into Bloomington, from

where it would then head toward the Wabash River. The main use of the railroad was to ship goods throughout the state, as well as people traveling around Illinois. Construction of the railroad started in 1835 and was finally built and ready for use in 1838. The railroad turned out to be a huge boost for the Illinois economy, and the railroad helped Illinois to become a leader in livestock production. David Davis was immediately known for his actions and was a hero in Illinois. Furthermore, he was known for his leadership and bravery for stepping up to help Illinois establish its first modern form of transportation, the Illinois Central Railroad.

Although the railroad boosted Illinois' economy with transporting goods throughout the state, it also later helped Illinois and the rest of the country in a more desperate time of need, the Civil War. During the Civil War, in 1862, the railroad was extended into Louisiana and near to the Gulf of Mexico. It joined the Jackson and Great Northern railroads in New Orleans. The railroad took a pivotal role in transporting troops and supplies from Illinois into Confederate territory for war. In addition, it assisted the Union side to victory. Without the railroad, the Confederates could have won the war and slavery could still exist today. The railroad ended up preparing Illinois for war; something that Illinois or David Davis expected from it. Illinois took advantage of their railroad, something the Confederates did not have, and as a result the Union side won the war and slavery was abolished.

In conclusion, during this time in Pekin, Illinois, attorney David Davis helped establish locations and uses for the Illinois Central railroad, allowing Illinoisans to value

this mode of transportation. Over his lifetime, David Davis met many people, who helped him become one of Illinois' most famous historical citizens. During a time of need in Illinois, this man stepped up to help establish the Illinois Central Railroad, which would later help the Union side win the Civil War. Because of his leadership, he will be remembered forever in the history of Illinois. [From *A Brief Historical Sketch of the Illinois Central Railroad*. Illinois Central Historical Society. [www.icrrhistorical.org/icrr.history.html](http://www.icrrhistorical.org/icrr.history.html). (Sept. 17, 2004); *David Davis*, [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). (Sept. 6, 2004); *David Davis*, [www.lib.edu.org](http://www.lib.edu.org). (Sept. 6, 2004); William L. King, *Lincoln's Manager*; James E. Myers, *The Man Who Made Lincoln President*; Chicago Tribune Feb. 10, 1980; and John Sciutto, *30 Years and Building Steam*, *Iron Horse Times*, Dec. 2, 2003.]

## **Ulysses S. Grant at Shiloh**

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The Battle of Shiloh where America's future eighteenth President led the Union army was a very bloody affair. Ulysses S. Grant learned an important lesson in the battle because his seemingly little mistake resulted in one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. However, Grant was not easily pinned down by the attacking Confederate forces; on the contrary, he held on until reinforcements came and prevented the Confederates from winning the battle. Ulysses S. Grant was a stout, straight-minded, superb leader who bravely stood his ground in the Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862.

Grant was born April 27, 1822, and died July 23, 1885. He eventually became commander of the Union Armies. His headquarters as head of the Illinois volunteers was established in Cairo, Illinois, in September 1861. He ruined several Confederate plans by winning battles such as Fort Henry on the Tennessee River, where he used his famous gunboat strategy, and Fort Donelson, where he obtained his first unconditional surrender. When he won those battles, he did not suffer much loss.

The Battle of Shiloh was a major battle in the American Civil War because it turned the war from Confederate dominance to Union dominance. It was named after a church on the battlefield, and is also called the Battle of Pittsburg Landing.

After General Henry Wager Halleck had given Grant top command for his victories at Forts Donelson and Henry, he made him a Major General. Grant's army had



pushed southward from St. Louis and had captured Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, and camped near Shiloh Church. Union general Don Carlos Buell from Nashville was going to join him there. Grant waited for Buell for almost a month. During this wait, Grant loosened his defense and allowed his soldiers to stray for drilling and merry-making. He telegraphed General Halleck and said that he had scarcely the faintest idea of attack”, and that was when the Confederates struck hard.

Generals Johnston and Beauregard of the Confederate army brought 44,000 men with them from Corinth, Mississippi, 4,000 more than Grant had. They attacked Grant on April 6, 1862, before Buell came. Grant had been totally caught off guard, and there was mass confusion on both sides, because most of the soldiers had never been in battle before. However, Grant kept his cool even though he was caught by surprise; he did not surrender. He defended Shiloh as best he could with his 40,000 men. Grant ordered his troops to hold their position as they were pressed against a nearby river. During the course of the battle, Grant finally established and held a line that stopped the southern advance along a sunken road.

However, the Confederates had also brought sixty-two cannons, the largest number of cannons ever used at that time in a war effort, and fired them at point blank range toward the sunken road. Bullets buzzed through the saplings around the area so that it looked and sounded like a hornet’s nest, hence the nickname of that part of the battle, Hornet’s Nest. The Hornet’s Nest was taken by Grant in six hours.

There was also another battle going on at a peach orchard, just yards away from the Hornet's Nest. Peach blossoms were said to have covered the dead like a fresh fallen snow. Confederate General Johnston bled to death in his part of the Battle of Shiloh. On the night of April 6, 25,000 reinforcements (18,000 were Buell's) arrived at Pittsburg Landing and only 700 came for the Confederates.

The next morning, April 7, 1862, the Confederates were pushed back on the ground that they had fought so hard to win the day before. In the afternoon, they evacuated the field and were forced to retreat to Corinth, Mississippi, some twenty miles south. A total of 23,746 men were killed, wounded, or missing. Shiloh was a decisive battle in the war because the South needed this territory in Tennessee near access to the Mississippi River to win and make up for land lost in Kentucky and Ohio. It also needed to keep control of the Mississippi Valley. Memphis and Vicksburg were now vulnerable to Union attack, and after Corinth, there was doubt that those cities would be the next targets. [From *A Very Bloody Affair*. [www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/1257/Shiloh/Heartland/Acres/1257/Shiloh.html](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/1257/Shiloh/Heartland/Acres/1257/Shiloh.html). (Nov. 18, 2004); *Battle of Shiloh* Wikipedia. En. [wikipedia.org/wiki/battle of Shiloh](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/battle%20of%20Shiloh) (Nov. 18, 2004).]

## **Vicksburg's Influence on Ulysses S. Grant**

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Ulysses S. Grant was a tactical general whose victory at Vicksburg showed that he could adjust his plans to achieve his goals. Vicksburg was a decisive battle that would determine whether the Union would win the Mississippi River and the West. Grant utilized his resources and troops to the fullest extent. Even though he had many men, his genius allowed him to make use of them and defeat the Confederacy with his brilliant makeshift plan. His experience at Vicksburg influenced and aided him in later battles.

Ulysses Hiram Grand was born on April 27, 1822 at Point Pleasant Ohio. His father, Jesse Root Grant, was a tanner. Ulysses worked with horses on his father's farm because he disliked the family tannery work. Jesse sent Ulysses to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1839 for further education. There he changed his name to Ulysses S. Grant, probably to avoid the abbreviation of "HUG" sewn on his uniform. He graduated from West Point in 1843, having excelled in horsemanship and mathematics. He was interested in art and read classic novels during his free time. He became a brevet second lieutenant in the Fourth United States Infantry at St. Louis, where he married Julia Boggs Dent, the sister of his roommate at West Point. Grand fought in the Mexican War and gained experience in handling troops. He resigned from the army in 1854.

When the Civil War started in 1861, Grant began training troops and gradually advanced in rank. Grant made his headquarters in Cairo, Illinois, and he went to Springfield to work for the Illinois Adjutant General. Two months later, Governor Richard Yates appointed him colonel of a regiment that became the Twenty-first Illinois Volunteers. Grant led these troops on a campaign against Confederates in Missouri. He soon became a general and was commanding troops in battle.

Grant proposed to capture Vicksburg, the key city that guarded the Mississippi River between Memphis and New Orleans, in the winter of 1862-1863. Vicksburg was the remaining Confederate fort on the river. If Vicksburg could be captured, it would give the Union a great advantage by being able to control access to the entire western front. Grant had already recognized the city's importance, and had tried to take it a few times before in vain. He had attacked from the north on the west side of the Mississippi River but the low and marshy ground bogged his army down. His attacks were easily stopped.

Grant knew that he needed a different approach. In April, he launched a new plan. He sent Rear Admiral David D. Porter's fleet of gunboats and supply ships to slip past the heavy Confederate artillery along the river and establish a base south of Vicksburg. Only two Confederate forces hindered Grant's way to Vicksburg itself. His troops outnumbered the surprised Confederates in their camps south of Vicksburg and the enemy forces scattered into the fields. Grant ordered Major General William T. Sherman to destroy the city of Jackson's industry and rail facilities. As Sherman and

Major General James B. McPherson advanced toward Jackson, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston wired Richmond, "I am too late." General Johnston ordered the city evacuated.

Grant went on to defeat Lt. General John C. Pemberton and his army, which was the largest force that he had so far to oppose Grant, on the route between Jackson and Vicksburg. Pemberton retreated with his men into Vicksburg. The Union forces pursued the Confederates over the Big Black River after a light skirmish at Big Black River Bridge on May 17, 1863. Grant's troops drove toward Vicksburg with only light resistance to hinder their way.

On May 18, Grant's first attempt to seize Vicksburg failed. On May 22, the second assault was another failure.

Grant ordered a siege in mid-May because direct attacks were not working. Pemberton's 20,000 man-garrisons were slowly reduced by starvation and illness. Grant's forces and Porter's gunboats repeatedly bombarded the area. Gradually, the besieged city wore down, and surrendered after 47 days on July 4, 1863. This was the day after another crucial Union victory at Gettysburg.

Now, the Union controlled the Mississippi and the Confederacy was effectively separated on to two sides of the river. This was the turning point of the Civil War and from then on, the Confederacy was gradually forced back toward their capital city of Richmond. They would be defeated in most of the ensuing battles.

Vicksburg had a heavy influence on Grant and the way he handled his future battles. He realized that when a plan did not work, he should not try it again and again, but he should devise a new plan. He applied this in one of the next big battles, the Battle of Cold Harbor. Grant had moved toward Richmond, the Confederate capital, and Lee tried to stop him. On June 1, 1864, Grant reached Cold Harbor, a community slightly north of Richmond. He attacked Lee on June 3 with 50,000 men. Lee had his 30,000 dig trenches and defend themselves well. Many of Grant's men were cut down in the first few minutes of the charge and the Union suffered heavy losses.

"Butcher Grant", as critics called him after the battle, again had to change his strategy. He knew that if he repeated his moves, Lee could fall back to the defenses at Richmond, where the Confederates would be able to withstand a siege. Therefore, he decided to attempt to force a quick "win-or-lose" battle. In April 1865, he seized the railroads that supplied Richmond. Lee tried to retreat, but Grant barred his way with 113,000 troops. Knowing that further fighting would just be wasting lives, Lee surrendered on April 6, 1865, in a house owned by Southern farmer, Wilmer McLean, in the little settlement of Appomattox Court House, Virginia.

Grant's flexible strategy planning gave him a valuable "back road" that he could use when things were not going well. He learned quickly and effectively from his mistakes. The Confederates must have been surprised when Grant adjusted his plans, and their surprise led to the shackles of slavery being completely removed – a much deserved

surprise for the five million southern slaves. [From Patricia L. Faust, *The Battle of Vicksburg*, [www.civilwarhome.com/battleofvicksburg.htm](http://www.civilwarhome.com/battleofvicksburg.htm). (Nov. 21, 2004); and State of Mississippi, Department of Archives and History, *A Guide to the Campaign & Siege of Vicksburg*.]

## **Mr. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant**

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Ulysses G. Grant is very well known for his military campaigns and achievements during the Civil War. However, there is a softer, more personal side to General Grant's life. This can be seen in his relationships with Julia Dent, whom he met while attending West Point. In 1848, he married Julia Dent. Their relationship was challenging at times due to Grant's Military career. Although Grant was frequently away from Julia, they remained close throughout their lives.

Frederick Dent, Julia's brother, was a classmate of Grant at West Point, where they both attended college. After meeting Julia at a social event held at her home, they fell in love almost instantaneously. When Grant returned to West Point, they were both very lonely. Only a few months later, Julia agreed to wear Grant's West Point College ring. The couple became engaged in 1844. Julia's father was against their courtship. He adamantly argued that Grant did not have enough money to support his beloved daughter. Finally, on August 22, 1848, Julia and Grant were wed in the Dent city home. Julia was joyous and radiant on her wedding day. Attendants at the wedding bragged on how beautiful the wedding itself was, as well as the couple in it. The Grants were in love and seemed well suited for married life. However, Grant's military career would keep them apart much of their marriage.



Less than three months after they were married, Grant left to report to Michigan. This was the very first test of their marriage, as well as the beginning of Grant's absences throughout their relationship. On May 30, 1850, Julia gave birth to their first child, Frederick Dent Grant. Grant returned for the birth, but spent less than a year at home with Julia before he left again. While Grant was away from Julia, they spent a great deal of their time writing to each other. In one letter from Julia to Ulysses, she writes about what had been going on back home. She acknowledged daily activities, such as buying things from the market and her happiness when she received one of his letters. Julia also informed Grant about current events back home. She told him that Mrs. Rowley had died around July 3, 1883, and about the well being of the family. Julia also received many letters from Grant telling her where he had been and where he was presently located. Grant hoped to provide Julia with a sense of sharing his life. However, all of his letters were not happy. Sometimes Grant told tell her stories of various battles. Grant wrote, "These terrible battles are very good things to read about for persons who loose no friends." In February, 1862, Ulysses told Julia that he was "... decidedly in favor of having as little of it as possible" speaking of war, yet the only "way to avoid it is to push forward as vigorously as possible. Grant asked about his family in every letter and told Julia to have them write as frequently as possible. A letter sent to Julia in March, 1862 tells how her sick he had been in the past few days, and concluded with "Give my love

to all at home. Kiss the children for me. – Ulys.” By writing letters to each other, Ulysses and Julia were able to write the story of their lives, which happened to be without one another. They shared issues they were facing, things they would have known if they were together, and the love they felt for one another. Personal touches are added to the end of each letter, whether it asks Julia to kiss the kids for Ulysses, or tells Ulysses to hang in there because they would be together again soon.

The Grants were able to maintain a strong relationship even while Ulysses was away at war. This is shown through the letters that the two shared throughout time at war. Also, the family that the Grants shared held their feelings and connection tightly together. The family bonds are obviously tight, as shown in the letters from Grant. He told Julia to kiss the children goodnight and to give them his best on multiple occasions. [From American Experience, *Timeline: Ulysses S. Grant 1822-1861*. [www.bps.org/wgbh/amex/grant/timeline/index.html](http://www.bps.org/wgbh/amex/grant/timeline/index.html). (Oct. 5, 2004); Julia Dent Grant, et al. *The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant (Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant)*; Julia Dent Grant. [www.clinton3.nara.gov/WH/glimpse/firstladies/html/jg18.html](http://www.clinton3.nara.gov/WH/glimpse/firstladies/html/jg18.html). (Nov 4, 2004); Diane Meives, *Little Known Facts about Ulysses S. Grant*, [www.css.edu.mkelse/facts.html](http://www.css.edu.mkelse/facts.html). (Oct. 5, 2004); Ishabel Ross *The General's Wife: the Live of Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant*; William R. Rowley *Papers 1862-1892*. (Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library); Stewart Sifakis and William Rowley. *Who Was Who In The Civil War*. Civilwarhome.com. [www.civilwarhome.com/grantbio.htm](http://www.civilwarhome.com/grantbio.htm). (Oct. 5, 2004).]

## **Grant and Colfax for White House**

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Ulysses S. Grant, the eighteenth president of the United States of America, was born Hiram Ulysses Grant on April 17, 1822, to Jesse and Hanna Grant in Point Pleasant, Ohio. He attended local schools and had two younger brothers: Orvil and Simpson. With the help of his father, Grant accepted an offer by Thomas Morris, then a United States Senator from Ohio, to attend West Point.

After West Point, Grant's military achievements in the Mexican War as well as the Civil War helped him become what he thought was the most popular man in America. This popularity would help him to become President. Grant was not the only one who thought that he should be President. Gideon Welles, an intern of President Andrew Johnson during the Reconstruction period said, "I am becoming impressed with the idea that Grant may prove a dangerous man. He is devoid of patriotism, is ignorant but cunning, yet greedy for office."

President Johnson, who became the first president to be impeached, became more and more unpopular as his clashes with Congress impeded the legislative process. He became so unpopular that his party split into Moderate and Radical Republicans. The Radicals were in favor of pushing the South and giving African Americans the right to vote while the moderates favored rapid restoration of the South and the exclusion of African Americans in the electorate process. The Radical Republicans eventually gained the majority in the Republican Party and decided to nominate Johnson for re-election to the White House.

At the Republican Convention of 1868, which was held at Crosby's Opera House in Chicago, Illinois, 8,000 Republicans met to decide who their next presidential candidate would be. They unanimously nominated Ulysses S. Grant, who did not even like politics or politicians, as the Republican Party's nomination for the White House. They then chose Schuler Colfax, who at the time was Speaker of the House of Representatives, to be the Vice-President candidate. In his acceptance speech for his nomination, Grant said: "If elected to the office of President of the United States. It will be my endeavor to administer all the laws in good faith, with economy, and with the view of giving peace and quiet, and protection everywhere. Peace and universal prosperity and its sequence with economy of administration will lighten the burden of taxation, while it constantly reduces the National debt. Let us live in peace."

With this well-planned speech, Grant kicked off his election campaign for presidency. This campaign would rely on Grant's military popularity to get votes for the presidency.

A little less than two months after the Republican convention, the Democrats had their convention from July 4-9, 1868, in New York City. At the beginning of their convention, Supreme Court Chief Justice Samuel Chase was heavily favored to take the Democratic nomination for the presidency. He declined though because he wanted to stay on the Supreme Court where he could help his party for life. President Andrew Johnson, now disliked by the Republicans, was now seeking the Democratic ticket and standing in his way was Horatio Seymour, the convention chairman, and George Pendelton, the 1864 candidate for Vice-President. After many ballots, there was a movement towards Horatio Seymour and he was eventually chosen as the Democratic

candidate for the presidency. His vice-presidential candidate was Francis P. Blair of Missouri.

The election was now on between Grant and Seymour. Unlike most candidates before him, Grant participated little in his campaign for the White House, remaining much of the time in his home in Galena, Illinois. He did go to a graduation ceremony at West Point; this was one of his few moments of publicity. Instead of campaigning himself, Grant let the media campaign for him. Reporters followed his journeys during the campaign and filled newspapers with homely accounts of the simple soldier whom people were calling to the White House. In Maine, the Republican members of the legislature adopted the resolution: "That on behalf of the Union Republicans of Maine, we follow the logic of events in indicating as our choice for the next President to the United States, him who is first in the hearts of the American people, General Ulysses S. Grant."

With little effort in the campaign, Ulysses S. Grant won the election of 1869 and became the eighteenth president of the United States. Grant won the Electoral College within 214 votes. He won the popular vote 52.7 percent to 47.3 percent. The announcement was made by Ben Wade, presiding officer of the joint convention of the United States Senate and House of Representatives on February 10, 1869. When Grant heard the news he told his wife, Julia, "I'm afraid I am elected." Perhaps Grant new he would have problems in the presidency.

At his inauguration ceremony, Grant refused to ride in the same coach as the exiting president Andrew Jackson. This moment of tension did not halt the progression

of the most extravagant presidential inauguration yet. It was filled with eight full divisions of marching soldiers and it was the first to require special tickets for admission to the Capital. In his inaugural speech, Grant talked about the usual improvements that must be made, such as improving foreign relations and reducing the national debt. But he made a radical statement that at the time was probably not widely accepted. Grant said “the proper treatment of the original occupants of this land – the Indians are deserving of careful study. I will favor any course toward them which tends to their civilization and ultimate citizenship.” Native Americans at the time were seen as obstacles to the westward movement; Grant’s statement was very radical indeed for his time.

With almost no work, Ulysses S. Grant won the election. The opposing candidate did not even stand a chance. With the help of the media, a few publicity events, and his military accomplishments, Ulysses S. Grant won the election of 1869 with supreme confidence and became the eighteenth President of the United States of America.

[From *1869 Democratic Convention*, [www.multied.com/elections/conventions/1869DEM.html](http://www.multied.com/elections/conventions/1869DEM.html). (Nov. 6, 2004); *1869 Ulysses S. Grant*, [www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/common/slideshow/inauguration2869.jsp?counter:2](http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/art/common/slideshow/inauguration2869.jsp?counter:2) (Nov. 6, 1869); William B. Hesseltine, *Ulysses S. Grant: Politician*; Ulysses S. Grant III, *Ulysses S. Grant Warrior and Statesman*; *First Inaugural Address of Ulysses S. Grant*, [www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-wfsecton+article+articleid-443.html](http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-wfsecton+article+articleid-443.html). (Nov. 7, 2004); Ulysses S. Grant III,

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[www.americanpresident.org/history/ulyssesgrant/biography/campaignselections.common](http://www.americanpresident.org/history/ulyssesgrant/biography/campaignselections.common)  
[.shtml](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/grant/timeline3.html). (Nov. 6, 2004); *Timeline of Ulysses S. Grant*. [www.pbs.org.wgbh.amex/grant/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/grant/timeline3.html)  
[timeline3.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/grant/timeline3.html). (Nov. 6, 2004).]

## **Lyman Trumbull and the Pullman Strike**

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Through he did not win the Debs case following the Pullman Strike of 1894, Lyman Trumbull played a part in making progress towards labor's legal rights. His involvement helped bring the question of fair wages to national attention for organized labor.

Lyman Trumbull was born on October 12, 1813, into a family of six children. His father Benjamin Trumbull was a Yale graduate who served in the Connecticut legislature and was also a judge. He was also born into a family of strong political figures, such as Jonathan Trumbull, who was a close friend of George Washington, a judge, chief justice and governor of Massachusetts for fifteen years. His mother Elizabeth Mather Trumbull was born into a very religious family of ministers. One was Cotton Mather, a renowned Puritan writer. Both Benjamin and Elizabeth were religious people with strong morals, who hated the idea of slavery, and believed strongly in the idea of equality. Lyman's childhood aspirations were to attend Yale, like his father and grandfather, but he could not due to insufficient money. When he was eighteen he became a teacher, but moved to Georgia and became an attorney. Eventually, he moved to Belleville, Illinois, where he practiced law with John Reynolds, a former governor of Illinois. In time, he opened his own law office with his brother. Trumbull was elected to the lower house of the Illinois legislature, along with Abraham Lincoln. Soon he replaced Stephen Douglas as Secretary of State. In 1843, after a dispute, Governor Ford asked Trumbull to resign his



position. It was the same year Trumbull was married to Julia Jayne. In the late 1840s and early 1850s, Trumbull served on the Illinois Supreme Court for a total of four years. In the 1860s, after the Civil War and President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Trumbull wrote the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, which abolished slavery in the country, and the Civil War Act, also giving more freedom and opportunity to African Americans. Also, from 1861 to 1872, Trumbull was the chairman of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. After his political career waned, Trumbull returned to Chicago to practice law.

In September 1893, the Pullman Works, a train car company near Chicago, reduced its wages an average of twenty-five percent. However, it did not lower the rent in the company houses. Workers of Pullman's Palace Car Company joined the American Railroad Union, established by Eugene Debs to unite railway laborers. A committee of Pullman workers waited for a compromise, but received nothing, neither increased wages nor lowered rents. Three members of the committee were fired, and that evening, May 10, 1894, the Pullman workers voted to strike. The Pullman works closed and the American Railway Union, with a claimed membership of 15,000, agreed to boycott the Pullman Company. The Pullman Company, refusing to receive any communication from the union, also refused to allow five judges to decide whether or not there was anything to judge. Unless the Pullman Company would agree to the arbitration, the American

Railway Union decided to stop handling Pullman cars. To avoid the boycott, the Pullman Company met with General Managers' Association and came to an agreement to ignore workers' demands.

The boycott and more strikes spread quickly, and General Managers' Association members dismissed men who refused to run or service passenger trains with Pullman cars on them. Violence ensued around Chicago and in many western states where the American Railway Union had members. A federal injunction was passed on July 2, 1894. This injunction prohibited American Railway leaders from "compelling or inducing by threats, intimidation, persuasion, force, or violence, railway employees to refuse or fail to perform their duties".

Eventually, federal troops entered the dispute, which Illinois Governor Altgeld protested strongly because he had not requested them. President Cleveland responded negatively to Altgeld, and on July 10, Debs and the other main officers of the Railway Union were arrested, charged with conspiracy to obstruct United States mail, and held under \$10,000 bail. The American Railway Union tried unsuccessfully to abandon the strike, under the condition that the workers be rehired without prejudice. A week later, on July 17, Debs and the others were arrested again on a different charge of contempt of the court's July 2 injunction. On July 18, the Pullman Company gave notice that it was reopening, and the strike ended.

On July 23, the hearing began with Debs's lawyers, Clarence Darrow and Lyman Trumbull, arguing that both charges against Debs had been for the same thing, which was illegal. They tried to have the second charge dropped but the judge ruled in disagreement. Darrow and Trumbull then asked for a jury trial in a criminal court and the judge also denied this request. In the contempt trial, the Pullman lawyers argued that the government had the right to remove a "public nuisance" and that the railroad was a sort of public highway. Since courts could remove obstacles of "public nuisances" from roads, they could and should do the same on railroads. They felt that by bringing workers together to withdraw their service from an interstate railroad, Debs and the other union leaders had blocked the flow of travel. According to this reasoning, Debs and the workers were found guilty of being a "public nuisance" and being in contempt of the injunction. Debs was sentenced to six months in prison, his sentence beginning on January 8, 1895.

Darrow and Trumbull then took the case to the Supreme Court, arguing that the contempt trial had been conducted in the wrong court; therefore, it was unconstitutional. Attorney General Richard Olney argued against Debs before the Supreme Court, saying that the government must protect the property that is committed to its care. On May 27, 1895, the Supreme Court agreed with Olney, establishing an important principle for strong federal power.

Even after so many losses and defeats, Lyman Trumbull and his case still brought

the strike, and the question of organized labor's legal rights to national attention. [Jenna Bishop, *Trumbull, Lyman*, [www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ihy990224.html](http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ihy990224.html).3 (Nov. 17, 2004); *Events of the Pullman Strike*, [www.1912.histor.ohio-state.edu.eventsofpullmanStrike.htm](http://www.1912.histor.ohio-state.edu.eventsofpullmanStrike.htm). (Nov. 2, 2004); Rosemary Laughlin, *The Pullman Strike of 1894; American Labor Comes of Age*; Lesley Piersall *Trumbull, Lyman*, Illinois History, [www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ihy930237.html](http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ihy930237.html). (Nov. 2, 2004)]

## **Grant's Actions in Cairo Prevent Illinois Ravage**

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Baltasar Gracian said, "Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment". With every task more is unveiled of something great. Many think of Ulysses S. Grant in this way. When given a chance, Grant strode ahead and took the upcoming challenge. As a result, Ulysses S. Grant and the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry Regiment he trained based themselves in Cairo, Illinois, and went to Paducah and Belmont to prevent the Confederate army from traveling north; therefore he saved Illinois from the postwar ravage that would have ruined it as it did the South.

Grant's journey began in Galena. He had moved there to work in his father's shop. Galena's company needed training; Grant was signed up for the job because he had military background. Because he accomplished the job so well, they offered him the position of Captain, which he declined. He obtained command over the Seventh District Regiment, also known as, the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry Regiment. Once Colonel of the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry Regiment, Grant was ordered to the District of Southwest Missouri. He journeyed to Cairo on September 4, 1861, to command the military district and establish his headquarters.

Grant contributed much to the Union army. First, Grant added a well-disciplined regiment to the army. Even before entering Cairo, Grant started the tough training.

Rather than allow the Twenty-first Regiment to travel to Cairo on the trains, he forced them to march. Here soldiers caught their first glimpse of discipline in war. They realized that they could not be lazy under Grant. The long, hard march not only disciplined them, but also toughened them for future attacks. In Cairo, Grant recognized the military district. He ordered the nearby saloons closed, and urged the company officers to read the Articles of War to their commands. When men from the Eleventh and Twentieth Illinois regiments stole honey, Grant fined them and paid the owner. Equally important was the fact that Grant sent soldiers to Paducah from Cairo. There were no casualties, and Paducah had strategic importance at the time. Grant sent soldiers to Fort Belmont. Though a number of casualties, it was the first important Union success.

Ulysses S. Grant was known for fighting in the war, but was involved with other dealings to improve conditions in Cairo and for the Union army. First, Grant enhanced the mailing system. He asked an employee of the Post Office Department to visit Cairo and start a system where soldiers' letters were top priority. A wagon followed them even as they marched. In this way, soldiers were able to keep in touch with their families. The soldiers asked for much needed supplies through the letters. They began to cooperate readily because they knew what was happening at home. Then, Grant improved the unsanitary conditions of Cairo. Soldiers were sickened by the fever, dysentery, and malaria spread by rats and mosquitoes. The troops' encampments were drowned in mud when it rained. Grant worked with Dr. Joseph H. Brinton, an army surgeon. Grant suggested

Mound City as a site for hospitals because it had empty warehouses along the river, which were easily accessible. Grant always stayed on task and promptly helped when he could.

Grant had to stop the Confederates from coming up north, using the river. He accomplished this within a week of command, when he entered Paducah peacefully. Paducah is just south of Cairo on the Mississippi river. Grant, informed of the Confederate's plans to siege Paducah a day after receiving command of Cairo, sent a letter to his comrades stating that if not restricted he would continue to Paducah. Grant arrived in Paducah on September 6, 1861, accompanied by the Ninth and Eleventh regiments. The Confederate army was only ten to fifteen miles away, when the Union army entered Paducah. Unaware of the small number of Union troops, the Confederates turned back. The people of Paducah, Kentucky were southern supporters. They did not welcome the Union army. Therefore, Grant wrote a proclamation declaring the Union army as friend, not foe. Some believed it wrong of Grant to go to Paducah without orders. However, President Lincoln supported Grant's actions; he believed if the neutral state of Kentucky left the Union, "Missouri and Maryland would follow". Paducah was of strategic importance, as well. It could be used to take the battle into the south. By taking Paducah, Grant prevented the Confederate army from traveling farther north. This protected Cairo and Illinois. If the Confederates had taken Paducah, the Union may have lost the war. Grant, however, stopped this from happening.

Grant received orders stating that Belmont should be protected. He took 2,700 men from Cairo to Belmont on November 7, 1861. Landing on the Missouri side of the

river, the Union soldiers marched the last mile to Belmont. On the way, they destroyed the rebel's supplies and equipment. When Grant and his men arrived in Belmont, the southerners fled. They began to celebrate. Meanwhile, the Confederates regrouped between the Union soldiers and their boats. Fighting it out, Grant was forced to leave behind 600 men, dead or wounded. This raised much criticism. Belmont, located in Missouri, along the Mississippi River, was across from Columbus, a major Confederate base. Grant, trying to keep them at bay, did not expect a battle. Later he realized his men were waiting for this chance to fight their country's enemies. Moreover, the raid convinced the rebels to change their plans to invade Missouri. If the Confederates had invaded Missouri, the Union army might have failed to defend themselves. From Missouri, Illinois could have been invaded. Grant prevented this occurrence, helping Illinois survive the Civil War.

Basing himself and the Twenty-first Illinois Infantry Regiment in Cairo, Illinois and traveling to Paducah and Belmont to prevent the Confederate army from traveling north, Ulysses S. Grant saved Illinois from the postwar ravage that would have ruined it as it did the South. It is not surprising since Grant looked for a challenge. He progressively convinced the public that he was the right person for the job. Baltasar Gracian believed that, "Great ability develops and reveals itself increasingly with every new assignment." His case proves this. [From Dwight Anderson and Nancy Anderson "The Generals; James Barber *U.S. Grant: The Man and the Image*; United States Library of Congress, *Belmont Missouri*. [www.americancivilwar.com/statepic/mo/mo009html](http://www.americancivilwar.com/statepic/mo/mo009html), (Sept. 9, 2004); Bruce Catton *Grant Moves South* and *Grant Takes Command*; William C. Church *The Photographic History of the Civil War*; Winifred Cox, *Cairo Illinois*



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## **Ulysses S. Grant – Eighteenth President of the United States**

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Ulysses S. Grant was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio, on April 27, 1822. He married Julia Dent on August 12, 1848. He served in two wars, the Mexican War and the Civil War. In April, 1865 Grant's armies captured both Petersburg and Richmond. Robert E. Lee made one last attempt to break through to the South, but with no food and half his soldiers too weak, Lee was forced to surrender.

In August, 1867, President Andrew Johnson appointed Grant as his Secretary of War. Congress wanted Edwin Stanton back; so Grant resigned. Johnson was very upset because he thought Grant would stay in office no matter what Congress wanted.

Grant then served as the eighteenth President of the United States, from 1869 to 1877. Grant won by 300,000 popular votes, but it was the black vote of 450,000 that put him over the top. Grant made two statements in his inaugural address. He wished to guarantee African Americans the right to vote, and he wanted proper treatment for the Indians, hoping they would be granted citizenship. Since Grant had promised to help the Indians, one of his first acts as President was to name General Ely S. Parker Commissioner of Indian Affairs. To help educate Indians and have them treated as individuals they developed a program called, "Grant's Peace Policy".

In March, 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment, which gave African Americans the right to vote was ratified. However, the southern legislators did not take long to pass

laws limiting the freedom of the former slaves. As the African Americans lost their right to vote, the Radical Republican influence died out. The door had been opened for the blacks but shut quickly, and it would take over a century before they could achieve their dream that was taken from them. Grant supported the rights of the freed blacks in the South. He opposed the recently organized Ku Klux Klan which south, through acts of terrorism to prevent blacks from voting.

A most notable achievement of his administration was the settlement of the Alabama claims dispute with Great Britain by the Treaty of Washington (1871). The treaty dealt with grievances stemming from the American Civil War and cross-border issues with the newly formed Dominion of Canada. Its negotiation helped to avert what some felt was an inevitable war between the two parties. One of the negotiators on the British side was Canadian Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald. Although the treaty was signed in the name of the British Empire, Macdonald's presence established that the newly formed Dominion of Canada would at least take part in settling foreign matters that affected it directly, especially with respect to dealings with the United States. The Alabama had been one of several Confederate warships built by England during the Civil War. The United States demanded compensation for damages done to the Union merchant marine by these ships and in 1872 was awarded \$15.5 million. This greatly irritated Macdonald, but he nevertheless persuaded the Canadian House of Commons to ratify the treaty.

Grant had more to do with establishing the American nation on a gold basis than any other President. People convinced Grant not to sell the government gold so their own gold would become more valuable and could sell it at a higher price. Grant finally stopped this and ordered the sale of \$4 million in gold. This caused a crash in the price of gold and financial ruin for many.

In 1885, suffering from throat cancer, Grant completed his autobiography, *The Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant*. Shortly after this was done, he passed away on July 23, 1885. Ulysses S. Grant was a normal person like the rest of us, even though he was than the youngest man to become President, at the age of 46.

All in all, his life and his deeds earned him respect, love and honor, the true measure of a man's worth. And at least his last wishes were met. His family was taken care of. Ulysses Grant and his wife are buried in New York City in a large tomb overlooking the Hudson River. "Let us have peace" are the words on Grant's tomb. They are his own words. [From Lucille Falkof, *Ulysses S. Grant*; Robert P. Howard, *Illinois, A History of the Prairie State*; John F. Kennedy, *Profiles in Courage*; and W. E. Woodward, *Meet General Grant*.]

## **The Lincoln – Trumbull Connection**

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During his years in office, Senator Lyman Trumbull of Illinois influenced American politics with his steadfast beliefs and sharp logic. He was one of seven Senators to vote against convicting President Johnson of impeachment charges. Prior to that, he had introduced the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery. However, his most influential act was unintentional. Lyman Trumbull was a major force that prompted Abraham Lincoln's rapid rise to political prominence and the Presidency.

In the years preceding the Civil War, the top political issue was the spread of slavery. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 established that all states or territories formed from the remainder of the Louisiana Territory north of the parallel 36 degrees 30 minutes would be free, and all south of that line would allow slavery. On January 4, 1854, Senator Stephen A. Douglas proposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which would repeal the Missouri Compromise and leave the decision of slavery in this area to popular sovereignty. "The possibility of extension of slavery into the territories brought both Lyman Trumbull and Abraham Lincoln back into politics", claimed one historian.

In that year's Senate election, the main contenders for Illinois' seat were Trumbull, Lincoln and a Free-Soiler named Matteson. Both Trumbull, a Democrat, and Lincoln, a Whig, opposed Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska Act, and were hoping to counter-balance him in the Senate. In 1854 Senators were elected by state legislatures, and to win the election, a candidate needed a majority of three ballot rounds. The legislatures voted

several times before Lincoln realized he could not win. Instead of seeing Matteson, a pro-Nebraska Act man win, he transferred his Whig votes to Trumbull which enabled the latter to win the election.

As a Senator, Trumbull immediately entered the debate. In his first senatorial speech, he attacked Douglas' Kansas-Nebraska Act, saying Douglas' theory of popular sovereignty was a sham. He asked Congress to repeal the Act and restore the Missouri Compromise. Douglas came back with a furious speech, attacking Trumbull's personal character, but Trumbull ended with a stout rebuttal. "The Illinois constituents . . . had been waiting for a long time for some- one to give battle to the all-powerful 'Little Giant' [Douglas] and Trumbull was flooded with letters of congratulations and high praise for his performance in the debate." "The people of Illinois were convinced that Douglas now had in the Senate an opponent who was his equal in intellect and his superior in manners."

As these debates raged, Whigs and anti-slavery Democrats were beginning to form the Republican Party, which would untie them on the common ground against slavery. As the new, loosely organized party prepared to nominate its first national ticket, Trumbull, still a Democrat received a "friendly and frank" letter from Lincoln informing him that he belonged in the Republican Party. Lincoln told him his influence in the nomination would be greater than any other Illinoisan and he should attend the convention. Trumbull took Lincoln's advice, and joined the ranks of the Republican

Party in 1856. “If there ever had been any ill-feeling between Lincoln and Trumbull as a result of the 1854 election, it was not quickly replaced by a firm political alliance between the two men”, wrote historian Mark Krug.

In 1858, when Douglas stood for reelection, Trumbull was as widely known as Douglas was. Both carried high stature and prestige. Trumbull had made a reputation for himself as an unbeatable public speaker and debater, whose arguments were firmly grounded in logic and intellect. Lincoln, on the other hand, was respectable, but generally unknown.

When Lincoln was announced as the Republican Senate candidate in 1858, the Democrats quickly spotted Lincoln and Trumbull’s alliance. Fearing Douglas would have to battle both men, they tried to weaken their alliance and neutralize Trumbull’s role in the campaign by recasting the 1854 Senate election. They accused Trumbull of cheating Lincoln out of the seat, claiming that the two men had an agreement where Lincoln was promised the seat, but that Trumbull had broken the agreement. “Trumbull and his friends always indignantly denied this accusation, and Lincoln repeatedly exonerated Trumbull of any blame”, wrote Krug. Nonetheless, the accusation caused the Republican leaders to urge Trumbull to campaign for Lincoln. They also wanted to make use of Trumbull’s experience in debating Douglas, his talents as a speaker, and his appeal to southern Illinois voters. They thought that an ex-Democrat would be more effective in fighting a Democrat than an ex-Whig.

When Trumbull could no longer resist the pressure from his friends and the party, he reluctantly joined the campaign. Lincoln, himself, did not request Trumbull's help and was convinced that he could handle Douglas alone. During the campaign, Trumbull seemed to be more interested in defeating Douglas than electing Lincoln. Trumbull's attacks on Douglas infuriated the "Little Giant," who lost his usual composure and hurled personal insults at Trumbull. Douglas complained that he was being forced to take on two candidates instead of one.

This became a turning point in Lincoln's political career. Trumbull appeared to be fighting Lincoln's battle for him, and Lincoln was not willing to ride into office on Trumbull's coattails. He had to find a way to force Douglas to debate only the issues at hand and leave Trumbull out of the picture. He had to prove to the people of Illinois and the country that he was as good a match for Douglas as Trumbull was. Lincoln decided to challenge Douglas to the series of debates that would become a renowned part of American history. Although Lincoln lost the election, the debates helped him become a figure of national importance. The debates not only proved that Lincoln was as politically able as Trumbull, but that he had greater popular appeal. "He, unlike Trumbull, had the power to tire men's souls to moral indignation," again, according to Krug.

Because of his great popular appeal and his well-known name, the Republican Party nominated Lincoln for the presidency in 1860. Although Trumbull loyally



supported Illinois' endorsement of Lincoln for President, he had little enthusiasm for Lincoln's candidacy. Trumbull wrote to Lincoln and helped him campaign. Lincoln, of course, won the election and changed the country's history.

If Trumbull had not won the Senate seat in 1854, Lincoln might not have become the best choice for the presidential candidate in 1860. If Trumbull had not established himself as Douglas' adversary, he might have helped Lincoln's campaign in 1858. If Lincoln had not had to compete with Trumbull for the spotlight in 1858, he might not have challenged Douglas to the debates that made him so famous. Lyman Trumbull, although often overlooked, was the pivotal figure in Lincoln's career who caused him to rise to political power, allowing him to lead the nation in one of its most important eras and be remembered as one of America's greatest leaders. [From Paul Angle, *The Lincoln Reader*; Robert Howard, *A History of the Prairie State*; Mark Krug, "Lyman Trumbull and the real issues in the Lincoln-Douglas Debates", *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* (1964); Mark Krug, *Lyman Trumbull Conservative Radical*; Rose Mansfield, "Lyman Trumbull 'Father of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment'", *Journal of the St. Clair County Historical Society* (1977); Alvin Neblsick, *A History of Belleville*; Theodore Pease, *The Story of Illinois*; Carl Sandburg, *Abraham Lincoln The Prairie Years*; and Hoarce White, *The Life of Lyman Trumbull*. ]